MASTER SYLLABUS

HISTORY 304: UNITED STATES WOMEN’S HISTORY

Prepared by: Dr. Carli Schiffner
Updated by: Dr. Gaylynn Welch and Patrick LaPierre

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
Fall 2021
A. **TITLE:** UNITED STATES WOMEN’S HISTORY

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** HIST 304

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 lecture hours per week for 15 weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** NO

E. **GER CATEGORY:** GER 4

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** FALL and SPRING

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course students will explore the social, economic, and political themes in United States Women’s History from pre-European contact through the twenty-first century. The diversity of women is emphasized and issues of class, race, national origin, activism, work, and the role of motherhood will be explored. Citizenship and the status of women in relationship to government will be discussed and analyzed. Three hours of lecture per week.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

30 credit hours, Composition and the Spoken Word (ENGL 101) and a 2.50 cumulative GPA, or permission of the instructor.

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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<tr>
<th>SLO</th>
<th>GER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Understand and use gender as a system of analysis and consider ways women’s history contributes to and alters our understanding of American history</td>
<td>Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society</td>
<td>2 – Critical Thinking [CA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and discuss factors that contribute to the social construction of gender by place and change over time</td>
<td>Knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups</td>
<td>1 – Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examine diversity of women and identify common experiences</td>
<td>Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society</td>
<td>4 – Social Responsibility [IK]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use primary sources to identify and discuss the significance of the goals, strategies, and results of social movements</td>
<td>Knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups</td>
<td>5. Industry, Professional, Discipline-Specific Knowledge and Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze conflict and coalition among women activists from different background</td>
<td>Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society</td>
<td>1 – Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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K. **TEXTS:** To be determined by the instructor.


L. **REFERENCES: Primary Sources:**


**Secondary Sources:**


**Videos:**
Ikwe (1997)  
Nine to Five (1980)  
Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony (1999)  
Stepford Wives (1975)  
Woman of the Year (1942)  
Working Girl (1988)

**M.** **EQUIPMENT:** LMS

**N.** **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

**O.** **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**
Exams  
Quizzes  
Papers  
Participation

The following is recommended: Reading-based quizzes, a paper based on the assigned class readings, a midterm exam and a final exam, class discussion, group presentations on social movements, and an Equal Rights Amendment (1920s) debate (with a written component).
P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to Women’s History
   A. Stages of Women’s History
   B. Gender as a Category of Analysis

II. Early America, 1600-1820
   A. Indigenous Women: Sexual division of labor; kinship systems; status of Women; fur trade; war
   B. Colonial Immigrant Women: Work; birth cycle; family life; legal status
   C. Women in the Revolution and New Republic

III. The Many Frontiers of Industrializing America, 1820-1880
   A. The Cult of True Womanhood
   B. Social Movements
   C. Civil War
   D. Reconstruction

IV. Creating the State in an Industrialized Nation, 1880-1945
   A. Clubs
   B. Education
   C. The Nineteenth Century Woman Suffrage Movement
   D. Work
   E. Immigration
   F. Middle-Class Progressives and Working-Class Labor Activists
   G. The Twentieth Century Woman Suffrage Movement
   H. Politics and Culture in the 1920s

V. The Great Depression and WWII
   A. Gender and Social Security
   B. Women in the workplace and the armed forces
   C. Internment

VI. Struggles against Injustice, 1945-2010
   A. Containment and Consumer Culture
   B. Civil Rights
   C. The Second Wave
   D. Marriage
   E. Work and Labor Legislation
   F. Sexual Harassment and Violence against Women
   G. The Third Wave and Popular Culture

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: n/a